

2020 Policy Priorities



Policy priorities are public facing legislative and/or administrative policy priorities of the Coalition. Activities are internal priorities for the work of the Coalition (in addition to the policy priorities).

Bucket	Policy Priorities
Full Coalition	
Full Coalition	<p>Priority #1: Ensure that Georgia is well-positioned to take advantage of federal opportunities, including grants (e.g., Early Head Start Partnership) and pending legislation.</p>
Child Care Affordability Committee	
Access	<p>Priority #1: Adequately fund Georgia’s Childcare and Parent Services Program (CAPS) with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve the needs of low-income families, particularly those with infants and toddlers. We believe any additional funding should be allocated to serving a larger proportion of income-eligible families, while also ensuring that reimbursement rates support quality care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, initial income eligibility is 50% of state median income (SMI), which is more stringent than many other states. We should consider expanding initial CAPS eligibility to 65% of the state median income to increase access. • Only an estimated 14.8% of eligible children in Georgia currently receive CAPS. To fund all currently income-eligible children aged four and under, it is estimated that an investment of \$100 million is needed. <p>Priority #2: Modify CAPS policy to allow participation in a four-year degree program to count toward the activity requirement for parents and caregivers as a step forward in supporting working families.</p>
Workforce	<p>Priority #3: Support the infant-toddler workforce by maintaining and expanding existing support systems, such as DECAL Scholars and classroom supports (e.g., inclusion, infant-toddler, and behavioral services).</p>
IECMH Committee	
Programs	<p>Priority #1: Ensure adequate funding for Maternal Child Health programs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for additional funding for Children 1st, Home Visiting, and Babies Can’t Wait. • Advocating for greater clarity, transparency, and regularity of reimbursement for Babies Can’t Wait service coordination by CMOs.

Bucket	Policy Priorities
Medicaid	<p>Priority #2: Ensure Medicaid coverage for and access to IECMH services for children 0-3</p> <p>Priority #3: Extend pregnancy Medicaid out to one-year postpartum to support both mothers and children.</p> <p>Priority #4: Advocate for the adoption of DC: 0-5.</p> <p>Priority #5: Advocate for <i>continuous</i> 12-month Medicaid eligibility for children under five.</p>